



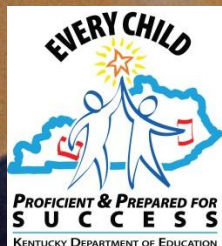
# Kentucky

Career and Technical Education

CTSO Leadership Training:  
Students Taking Steps to be  
Kentucky's Future Leaders

Computer Aided Drafting:  
Making the Connection  
Between CTE and the  
Academic Classroom

CTE's Relationship with  
Local Workforce Agencies:  
How Important it Really Is



Volume IV  
Fall 2012

A New Day for CTE:  
OCTE-KDE Merger Brings Kentucky  
to Forefront of Career and  
Technical Education



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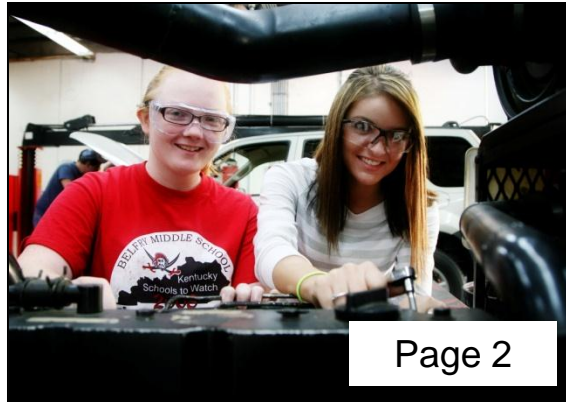
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# A New Day for CTE

## OCTE-KDE merger brings Kentucky to forefront of Career and Technical Education

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The move to fill an ever-growing need for a skilled workforce as well as reach college- and career-readiness goals set forth by state legislation got a huge boost as Governor Steve Beshear signed an executive order on Aug. 28 to restructure Kentucky's Career and Technical Education (CTE) sector.

The signing took place at Locust Trace Agri-Science Farm in Fayette County before a crowd of business and education leaders, along with students representing every Career and Technical Student Organization across the state.

Under the directive, the Office of Career and Technical Education will be composed administratively of the Department of Workforce Investment's KY Tech system along with the CTE component of the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) College and Career Readiness Branch.

The newly formed office will be located in KDE and is designed to create a unified, more relevant and efficient system to educate and prepare students for the world of work in a real-life setting, according to information from the Governor's Office.

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Students participating in a robotics competition held during the SkillsUSA Annual Conference and Skills Competition.



Gov. Steve Beshear, pictured with OCTE Executive Director Dale Winkler, left, and CTE student organizations state officers, signed the executive order at Locust Trace Agri-Science Farm in Fayette County.

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“It is our responsibility to prepare students for higher education as well as for the workplace,” said Beshear. “Today’s employers require a workforce that is skilled, adaptable and equipped to compete in the global marketplace. Our students need an education system that provides job-training and learning opportunities that will put them on a career pathway. Transforming and elevating CTE is essential to this process. We must create a career and technical education system that is a first choice, not a last chance.”

This realignment of CTE comes on the heels of a larger initiative to better prepare students for careers and college through heightened educational endeavors created by the Transforming Education in Kentucky (TEK) task force.

Those endeavors include such projects as the Kentucky Board of Education’s adoption of a college and career readiness measure that includes an academic component and a technical skill component; the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) offering dual credit opportunities so that high school students can earn college credit; and providing funds from the Carl D. Perkins CTE Basic Grant to encourage secondary and postsecondary institutions to develop innovative career pathways.

Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary Joseph U. Meyer said career programs offer many opportunities for all students.

“CTE can make the direct connection for students between education and jobs,” said Meyer. “These programs offer learning opportunities that can inspire all students to explore careers and tackle more challenging courses.”

Studies show that graduation rates are higher among students who participate in CTE programs as opposed to those who do not. These high school graduates are then more likely to transition to postsecondary education or employment.

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Seventy-five percent of Kentucky high school students, more than 150,000 pupils, were enrolled in career and technical education programs last year. Career and technical education – offering hands-on training in areas such as agriscience, machine tool technology, health sciences, electrical technology and business administration – is provided at 323 middle and high schools, area technology centers and career and technical centers across the state.

Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday said bringing the systems together was an excellent move.

“Career and technical education directly connects learning and jobs for our students and provides them with engaging real-world opportunities so that they can transition to higher education or employment with ease,” he said. “This move is a key strategy in our efforts to ensure college and career readiness for all students.”

The executive order also establishes a CTE Advisory Committee that will provide guidance in the design and implementation of programs that give all students the best possible opportunity for career preparation in a unified system.



Collin Potter, FBLA Southern Region vice president and Kentucky FBLA vice president, addressed the gathering during the merger announcement.



Electrical Technology students team up to work on a project at the Belfry Area Technology Center.

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Those students wishing for a career in the health care professions can get a head start in a Health Sciences program.

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Chair of the House Education Committee Rep. Carl Rollins of Midway also was on hand for the event. He said by bringing together oversight of career and technical education at the state level “we will become much more effective in delivering the training our students need and our employers expect.”

With the student perspective, Collin Potter, who is enrolled in the Office Technology program at the Montgomery County Area Technology Center, spoke on behalf of the state’s Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) and the CTE student population in general. He serves as the Future Business Leader of America’s Southern Region vice president and Kentucky FBLA vice president.

Potter said the decision to unite the two CTE agencies in Kentucky indicated the Governor’s confidence in the CTE community’s ability to prepare students for both college and a career.

“CTE programs offer students the opportunity to explore career options, learn technical processes, gain employability skills and network with potential employers,” he said. “In our CTE classrooms and labs, students learn to apply academic concepts.”

Potter was joined at the announcement by a host of state CTSO officers and the Locust Trace FFA officer team.

# CTE's relationship with local workforce agencies

## How important it really is

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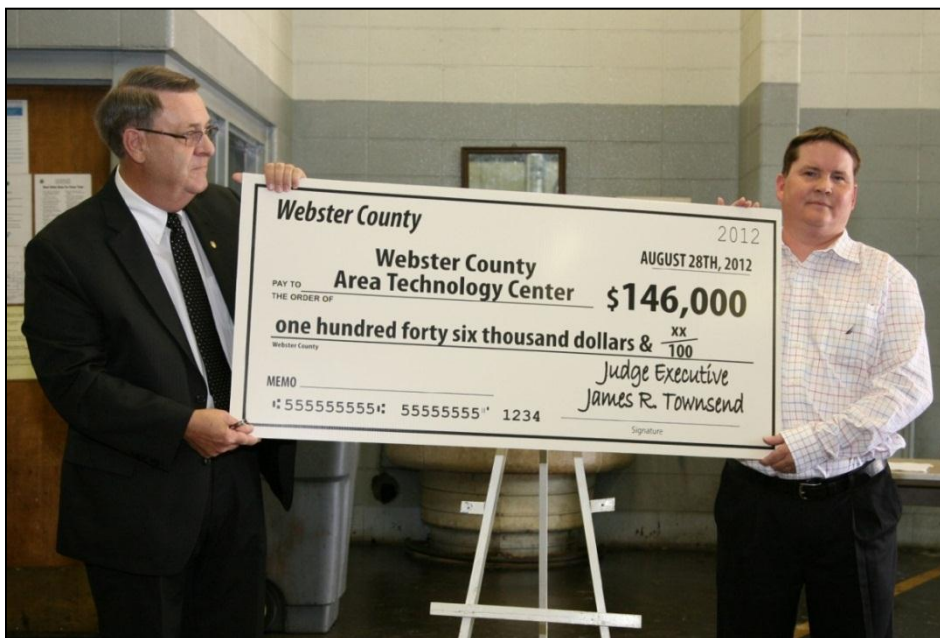
Building relationships with local business and industry entities is critical to the success of today's career and technical education (CTE) programs as much for local economies as the schools. With that in mind, the Webster County Area Technology Center (ATC) recently celebrated being on the receiving end of a contribution from its local workforce partner, Northwest Kentucky Forward (NWKf).

The tech center was awarded \$146,000 from the organization to help purchase needed up-to-date equipment in the areas of computer-aided drafting, health sciences, information technology, machine tool technology and welding.

The idea is to prepare a more skilled future workforce for the area and do it through strategic investments such as this one, said Dale Winkler, the associate commissioner of the Office of Career and Technical Education.

"Our secondary tech centers are the perfect places for high school students to gain insight and knowledge about a variety of career fields," said Winkler. "Through investments such as the one made to Webster County ATC, those students will have the opportunity to learn new skills on new equipment and start on the path to one of those careers," he said. "This not only benefits the students in their endeavors to become college- and career-ready, but it helps to grow a skilled workforce that will benefit business and industry partners."

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Webster County ATC Principal Lawrence Garrity accepts a ceremonial check from Webster County Judge Executive James Townsend.



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Winkler added that the organizations providing this type of funding are making wise investments in area students, school systems and the communities' economic development efforts.

Lawrence Garrity, principal of the Webster County ATC, accepted the ceremonial check during a press conference held at the school. He said NWKF spearheaded the initiative working with the judge executive's office in Webster County, along with the county's economic development corporation (EDC) to help the ATC improve its existing technology and reach its goal of preparing students to be college and career ready.

"We'll be able to better prepare our students for industrial certifications and for the training they'll need to go out into the workforce and/or college to be successful," Garrity said. "We work closely with local business and industry and NWKF. I think business and industry and technical schools and high schools need to work together and support each other, because we're basically in the same business; we're trying to produce students that will be successful in the workforce to take care of their families and get the things they need and be fulfilled and at the same time, meet local workforce needs."

In addition to the money given to the ATC, NWKF also awarded the Madisonville Community College (MCC) \$65,000 to help with the cost for dual credit programs between the ATC and the college. In certain programs, students can obtain college credit while participating in their CTE classes.

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CTE classrooms such as the Machine Tool Technology shop at the Webster County ATC are comprised of hands-on activities as well as traditional classroom settings.



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MCC Dean of Student Affairs Jay Parrent said the money will provide help to hundreds of students and their parents in getting to the next level of education.

“Earning dual credit while in high school really provides parents the opportunity to save money,” said Parrent. “It’s a much easier way to get that college credit earlier. We’ve seen lots of parents who have saved as much as a year of college (tuition). Webster County has been a real leader in our service area in trying to provide high-quality, dual credit opportunities for students. This will just strengthen that partnership.”

Parrent added that the kind of support shown by NWKF will have a big impact on the students and the kinds of equipment with which they will be able to work.

He also said that the pathways the state has been working to build between the secondary and postsecondary systems over the last several years is beginning to solidify, enabling a high school student to walk right into a community and technical college and then into the workforce and get a great job.

During the announcement ceremony, NWKF also awarded the Northwest Kentucky Training Consortium \$50,000 to help with training opportunities for Webster County businesses and residents.

Winkler said in today’s educational and economical environment, it takes partnerships like the ones demonstrated in Webster County to ultimately create the kind of skilled workforce needed throughout the state and country.

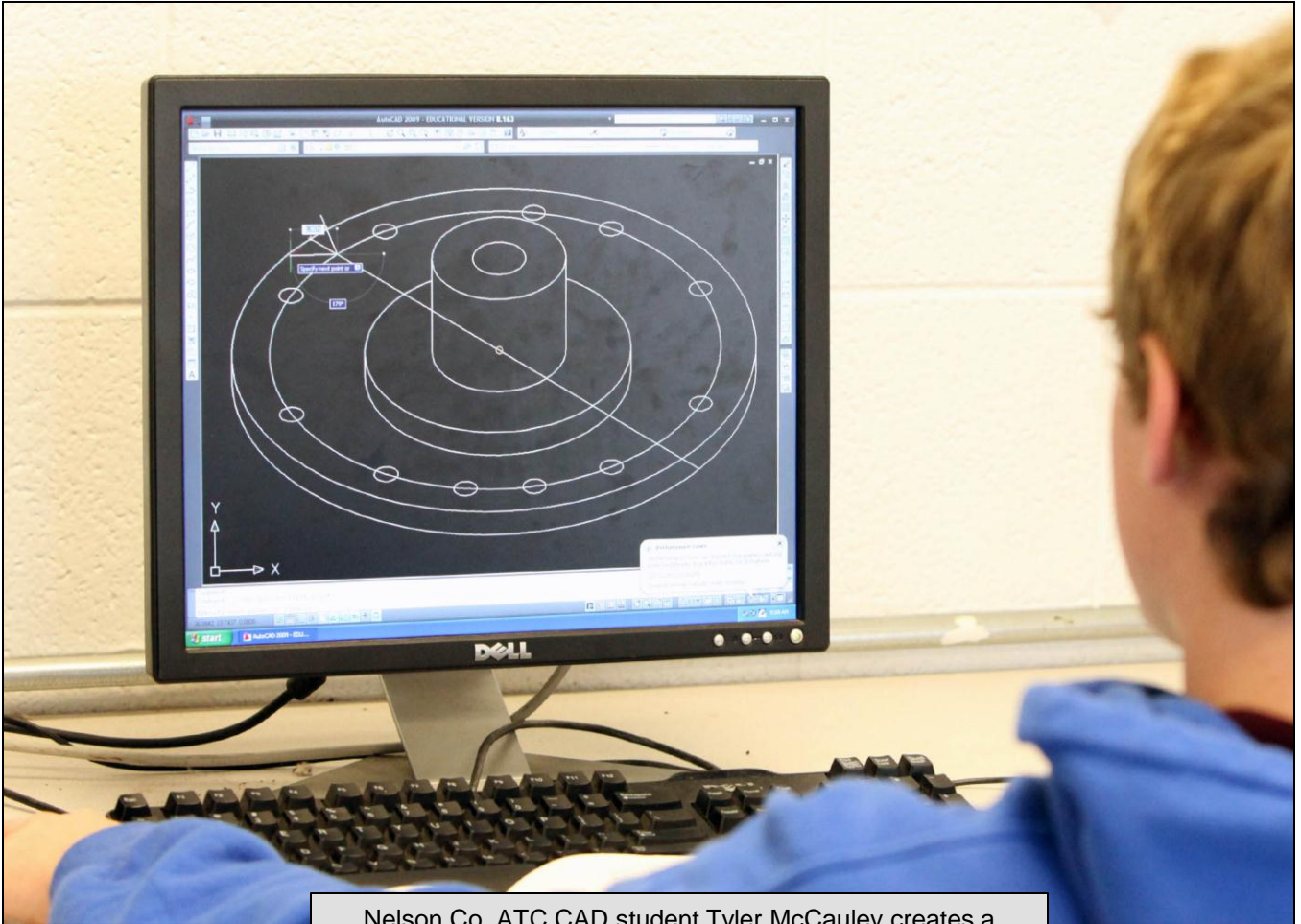
“This is not only a good thing for the local communities in and around Webster County, but it is good for the entire state to see how much can be accomplished when different local organizations come together with one common goal,” he said.



Information Technology is one of the many programs taught at the Webster Co. ATC.

# Computer-Aided Drafting: Making the connection between CTE and the academic classroom

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Nelson Co. ATC CAD student Tyler McCauley creates a manufacturing drawing on the computer.

There is a direct connection between the academic classroom and career and technical education (CTE) programs, according to Alice Boblitt, the Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD) instructor at the Nelson County Area Technology Center (ATC).

If her track record of nearly 20 years of teaching is any indication, she is right. Boblitt has weathered the transition from old-school drafting boards to high-tech computer programs that allow her students to visually and virtually create almost anything they can imagine. She has seen many of her students achieve great success through engineering programs at both the University of Louisville's J.B. Speed School of Engineering and the University of Kentucky.

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Students Tyler Spalding and Tyler McCauley use textbooks as well as computers as part of the CAD program.

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Many of her students have also gone the community college route or gained the necessary skills to go directly into the workforce after high school.

All these options make her classroom and most like it magnets for students of all backgrounds with one desire, to be successful, she said. "The students keep me excited. I want to see them better themselves and go on to a postsecondary education or have a job and become valuable members of society."

Boblitt's classroom is full of interaction as students are encouraged to work together to better understand what they are studying and get a feel for an outside working environment.

"What I try to do with my students is to get them to understand the world of work. They get a set of drawings, and they have to complete their assignments in a set amount of time because if they're not productive in a job, they would soon be let go," she said.

These types of soft skills are a co-curricular component built into CTE courses and can serve a multitude of purposes in the world of work, according to Joe Morgan, the Technology, Distance Learning and Professional Support branch manager in the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE).

"When you think of all of the products and infrastructure we use on a daily basis, it is important to understand that these things began as ideas in the mind of a designer or engineer," said Morgan. "CAD provides the tools and unique language to express those ideas so they can be understood by bankers who fund development, managers who coordinate equipment, supplies and personnel, and the technicians who make the products, buildings and infrastructure."

Morgan also emphasized the connection between classes such as geometry and the CAD classroom.

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“CAD involves spatial thinking, which is the ability to visualize objects or terrain and creating two-dimensional line drawings or three-dimensional models of them,” he said. “It involves geometry and the mathematical transformation of information so designs can be constructed accurately and made to withstand natural and manmade forces such as tornados and road vibration or the constant turning of an engine.”

Bringing the academic component into play with the applied technology is important in meeting Kentucky’s College and Career Readiness Initiative, noted Terry Miller, the OCTE academic consultant for CAD classes across the state. He said that when multi-classroom collaborations take place, the level of learning and understanding is taken to a whole new level.

“We have seen collaborative efforts that involve geometry and CAD classes really help students get a better understanding of both programs,” he said. “And, for example, when you add a machine tool technology program to the mix, where students can actually create what they have designed on the computer, I think the possibilities of what that student will be able to do career wise are endless. This completed circle kind of approach is so valuable and all it really takes to happen is communication between teachers.”

Morgan Ballard, a senior student of Boblitt’s who has taken CAD classes for three years, is planning to attend the University of Louisville next year and hopes to be accepted into the Speed School of Engineering.

“I want to be a mechanical engineer. I’ve already spoken to the representative from the school and I’m pretty excited about it,” he said. “I enjoy this class and to get to do this for a living would be really nice.”

Ballard added that because of his experience in the high school program, he believes he has an advantage over others going into college without the same background.

“There are a lot of people trying to get in that don’t know anything about it. I think I’m way ahead of them,” he said.

Boblitt wants all of her students to be successful and enjoys staying in touch with former students and watching their progress over the years. For her that is the ultimate satisfaction in her job and she has words of encouragement for all of her students.

“If you are fortunate enough to find something you enjoy, your life will be so much richer for it, not always from a monetary standpoint but each day you’ll get up and want to go to work and it will be a good thing,” she said.



Teacher Alice Boblitt works with student Morgan Ballard on a digital drawing. Ballard plans to attend the University of Louisville and study engineering.



# CTSO Leadership Training

## Students taking steps to be Kentucky's future leaders

The state's Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) all have a common thread even though each group is comprised of students from different CTE program areas. Teaching students leadership skills and being good community members are central to each CTSO's mission.

Throughout the year both chapter and state officers participate in various training events designed to teach leadership skills so they may in turn bring that knowledge to fellow members in their own communities.



Meghan Jones, a student at the Barren County Area Technology Center, participated in the Community Service Day held in conjunction with the 2012 Kentucky Leadership and Training Institute.

Kentucky SkillsUSA students recently finished a three-day leadership conference known as the Kentucky Leadership Training Institute (KLTI). The training was held at the General Butler State Resort Park in Carrollton.

As part of their conference experience, more than 100 attendees participated in a day of community service devoted to repairing projects around the park. Those activities included painting structures, camp ground cleanup and picnic table repair.

SkillsUSA, Kentucky Interim Director Fran Dundon said this year the organization is adopting the Kentucky State Park system as the core of its community service in its Program of Work.

"Our state officers are great examples of young adults who are all about leading with a purpose. The pre-conference community service project drew 104 advisors and students who were able to provide a wide range of skilled labor by completing 12 major projects in a six-hour blitz," she said. "The kick-off was used to promote the year-long commitment between SkillsUSA Kentucky chapters and the state park system, and each chapter was asked to consider adopting a state park in close proximity to their respective school. We expect great results over this next year and look forward to relaying what our SkillsUSA members accomplish for our state park system."

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Welding students from the Carroll County ATC constructed an artistic metal “golfer” to adorn the entrance of the golf course located at General Butler State Park and Resort. The donation was part of the “Day of Service” held in conjunction with the SkillsUSA KLTl event. The students spent the day positioning and making final welds to the statue in order to make it a permanent display at the park.



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Dakota Bray, a SkillsUSA KY state officer from Russellville Area Technology Center (ATC) said there is a special feeling you get when you see many members banning together to work hard and improve communities.

"Many students demonstrated their integrity and initiative by leading through example during the statewide community service project at General Butler State Park during KLTl," he said. "This reflects the core values of our SkillsUSA organization."

Last summer, FFA, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and DECA state officers made their way to Hardinsburg's FFA Camp to participate in a two-day joint officer's leadership training event. Matt Chaliff, an agriculture education consultant for the Office of Career and Technical Education and executive secretary of Kentucky FFA, said the training helps students learn a host of skills and gain information to help them in their roles as state CTSO officers.

"They learn communications and teamwork skills as well as etiquette; all the things needed to become highly successful state officers and leaders of their respective organizations," he said. "They do come in with a lot of leadership knowledge, but this is their final training opportunity to put together all the pieces and put the polish on it. I think it is really important in that sense."

The joint leadership training has been taking place for at least a dozen years and has affected hundreds of students, all of which have returned to their chapters after the training, better equipped to complete activities at the regional and state levels while providing leadership within their chapters.

"We get them ready to interact with teachers, interact with industry people and interact with students on a high, professional level," Chaliff said.

Ali Higgs, a member of the Western Hills High School FFA chapter, current student at the University of Kentucky and state FFA president, said she had attended training sessions prior to the summer event but it was still exciting to attend with other groups and learn from them.

"We've attended conferences and training with other FFA state officers from around the country but attending such a training as this gives officers from each organization a chance to see how the other student organizations work. There are things we can learn from FBLA, FCCLA and DECA and all the organizations," she said.

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Kentucky CTSO state officers from across the Commonwealth met at FFA Camp in Hardinsburg last summer for a two-day leadership training session.

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Higgs also said she hopes the other student groups were able to learn something from FFA, as well.

FCCLA State President Brooke Gordon said the summer session was the second training she had attended since becoming a state officer last March, and training events have helped her get to know her fellow FCCLA officers as well as officers from other CTSOs.

“We had many opportunities for team-building activities, and this brings everyone closer. It’s so important to be able to work with others and being able to cooperate and get along,” she said.

Recca Carver, the state FCCLA advisor, said training activities allow the students to grow in their leadership skills.

“Coming to the CTSO training helps them to see the true picture of CTE and how it all fits in and how to work with the other organizations and be great leaders for our future,” she said.

FBLA has long been recognized for the business leaders that got their start in that organization. Karen Nash, the state FBLA advisor, said training provided by CTSOs gives students hands-on leadership experience that puts into practice what is taught in the classroom.

“Students are given the opportunity to lead their groups in a way that promotes teamwork and efficiency in accomplishing a task,” she said. “These skills are then taken back to their respective CTSOs, where they can now effectively lead their organizations with all the activities throughout the year. It is also a great way for students from all organizations to get together and learn what others are doing and get ideas from each other.”

Abby Witt, Kentucky FBLA state president from Estill County High School, said training for the various CTSOs is important to the success of the members and organizations.

“As state officers, we find this experience invaluable. The training provided at Hardinsburg helped each of us with the skills needed in order to successfully lead our fellow members,” she said. “The varied activities helped each of us acquire and refine these necessary skills so that we can take them back and share with others. We learned the importance of teamwork, which is vital to the success of our CTSOs at the local, regional and state levels. Combining all state officer teams further enhances the experience because we are able to share with each other ideas and activities that help build our organizations.”

HOSA-Future Health Professionals state officers have been busy at both state and national training events. The sixth Annual Washington Leadership Academy was held last September along with the State Advisors Management Conference.

State Advisor Elizabeth Bullock said the officers spent a day on Capitol Hill meeting with their respective members of Congress and their staff to discuss the importance of addressing critical shortages in the healthcare workforce. They also visited the National Institutes of Health and the National Museum of Health and Medicine.

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HOSA also held a KLTI event at the Louisville Airport Crowne Plaza Hotel. The conference served as a local officer training and the kick-off to its national service project for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

The organization, along with others, is utilizing technology and social media outlets to enhance their training and experiences.

“KY HOSA has a Facebook page that is maintained by our officers,” said Bullock. “The technology and communication methods for this generation are amazing. We have online meetings and text and Google during meetings, and half the work is finished before the meeting is over because they utilize all the technology available to them. Our past president, Taylor Readnow, is in charge of alumni membership, and one of our goals is to grow alumni membership to utilize at conferences for judges and presenters.”

Readnow said this year’s KLTI leadership workshops were extremely helpful and informative and provided new ideas for chapter officers to take home and share.

“Our KLTI also was very successful in kicking off our partnership with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for our National Service Project. We raised over \$125 at this conference alone by offering students the opportunity to ‘lock up’ their advisors in jail, and the advisors having to pay to get out. Overall, I think this conference was a great success, and I’m thankful for everyone who attended or helped put this on,” she said.



HOSA members participate in a “fun” exercise during a KLTI event.

# **Director's Notes**

Greetings, CTE Champions!

It has been a busy few months for all of us, and I truly appreciate all your hard work. As we begin a new era in Kentucky Career and Technical Education, it's important for me to express that what you do is so critical to our success.

For our teachers and staff, you are the backbone of the system, and through your efforts, Kentucky CTE is creating a world of opportunities for thousands of students each year. That's really what it's all about and why we are here.

For our business and industry partners, your support has proven to be pivotal in our ongoing endeavors to create educated and skilled students who will one day become your employees.

For our education partners, the connections we have and are creating will help elevate our system to one that is looked at as a model for other states to emulate.

The merger between the KY Tech system and the Department of Education's College and Career Readiness Branch has created one of the largest CTE systems in the country.

At a time when career education has the spotlight across the nation, we are poised to become a leader in every way when it comes to CTE, and I am, as I hope you are, very proud of that fact.

While we know there will be times of adjustment and challenges to face in a still uncertain economy, we have the tools in place to continually build and grow a system second to none.

Thank you for all you do, and I look forward to the future of CTE in Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Dale Winkler

Associate Commissioner – Office of Career and Technical Education